



**WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NATUROPATHIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 16, 2007

LOCATION: Comfort Inn & Conference Center
1620 74th Avenue Southwest, Tumwater Room
Tumwater, Washington 98501

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Hazel Philp, ND, Chair
John J. Nowicki, ND
Joanne Hillary, ND
Gail Fisher, Public Member
Andrew Rebmann, Public Member, telephonically

STAFF PRESENT:

Susan Gragg, Program Manager
Blake Maresh, Executive Director
Karen Maasjo, Program Support
Pamela Anderson, Assistant Attorney General

Meeting attendees honored Dr. Mitchell with a moment of silence. Dr. Mitchell, who was one of the founding fathers of Bastyr University, passed on at the end of January.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Approval of meeting agenda
The February 16, 2007 meeting agenda was approved as written
- 1.2 Approval of August 18, 2006 meeting minutes
The May 12, 2006 meeting minutes were approved as written.

2. MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

- 2.1 Introductions of Committee members, staff and audience were made. Gail Fisher and Andrew Rebmann, the new public members, briefly introduced themselves.

3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Blake Maresh, Executive Director, briefly explained the bill process including the first Bill cut-off date on February 27, 2007. A list of all current Bills was handed out to all attendees. He gave a brief explanation of each Bill.

4. RULES PROJECT UPDATE

- 4.1 2005 Legislative Session rules update
Program Manager, Sue Gragg, stated that the third draft of the rules went out on the ListServ to interested persons. The Medical Quality Assurance Commission has expressed some concerns regarding the rules. The Commission will discuss the draft rules at the next Medical Quality Assurance Commission meeting on February 22 and 23, 2007. Hazel Philp, Chair, and Ms. Gragg will be present at the meeting to answer any questions raised.

The Department is working to get the rules in place as soon as possible.

- 4.2 Retired Volunteer Medical Worker rules
Program Manager, Sue Gragg, gave a brief report on the status of the rule project regarding Retired Volunteer Medical worker licensure.
- 4.3 NPLEX examination rule revision
In August 2007, the NPLEX is changing the format of the examinations from a series of individual exams within a session to integrated component exams. The Department will be expediting the rule change for the August implementation.
- 4.4 Future rules projects:
 - 4.4.1 Continuing Education
 - 4.4.2 Intrauterine Devices
 - 4.4.3 Chelation Therapy
- 4.5 Cosmetic Procedures
Beverly Thomas, Program Manager for the Medical Quality Assurance Commission gave a slide presentation on Non-Surgical Cosmetic procedures (NSC). She explained that Department of Health and Department of Licensing have concerns about the type of individuals, licensed and unlicensed, providing these procedures. The Commission will be holding an open meeting to begin a rules project.

5. PROGRAM REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Blake Maresh, Executive Director, reported that Sue Gragg is officially the permanent Program Manager of the Naturopathic Physician Program. He also noted that the Licensing Manager and Disciplinary Manager positions have been filled. At this time, there is a non-permanent person in the Intake and Assessment area as the previous staff member in that position has transferred to the compliance area of the section.

Mr. Maresh explained that currently there is a performance audit taking place in Health Professions Quality Assurance (HPQA), where Section 5 and the Naturopathic Physician Program are apart of. The audit should be completed by mid-June and the results submitted to the Legislative Committee. A public hearing will then follow.

The Integrated Licensing Regulatory System (ILRS) is still in process. It is a singular system that will combine the systems from all the HSQA offices for better protection and service to the public. It is at the "train the trainer" portion of the project and should be fully installed by this time next year. Implementation will take place in pieces starting the summer of 2007.

5.1.1 Budget

Effective July 1, 2006, the annual renewal fee for naturopathic physician licenses returned to the previous amount of \$200. It is having the results desired. The Department will continue yearly reviews to determine fee structure.

5.2 Deputy Executive Director report

Deputy Executive Director, Maryella Jansen, was absent.

5.3 Program Report

5.3.1 Ms. Gragg announced there has been a 14% increase in licensees. Christian Dodge, ND, wanted to know how many of those practice in Washington State. Ms. Gragg will obtain the data for the next Committee meeting.

5.3.2 Complaint/Disciplinary report

Ms. Gragg provided a report on the current complaint cases being reviewed by the Department. Kasra Pournadelli, ND, would like to know the number of cases received, the number closed with no action, and the number closed with action. Ms. Gragg will obtain the statistics for the next Committee meeting.

6. MEETING SCHEDULE APPROVAL

- 6.1 The next Naturopathic Advisory Committee meeting will be May 17, 2007 and will be held in the Renton area.
- 6.2 Scheduling the remainder of the 2007 and all of the 2008 meetings was tabled until the next meeting.

7. ELECTIONS (discussion of process)

The election process was deferred to the next meeting.

8. INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE UNIT OVERVIEW

Dave Magby, Chief Investigator, gave a brief overview of ISU and their services. He explained they provide assistance to 57 health professions and the EMS / Trauma Systems office. Among their responsibilities, they do background checks on all new applications as well as all Unlicensed Practice complaints.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

(Signatures on File)

Susan Gragg, Acting Program Manager
Naturopathic Advisory Committee

Hazel Philp, ND, Chair
Naturopathic Advisory Committee